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Canada's

Weekly Newsmagazine

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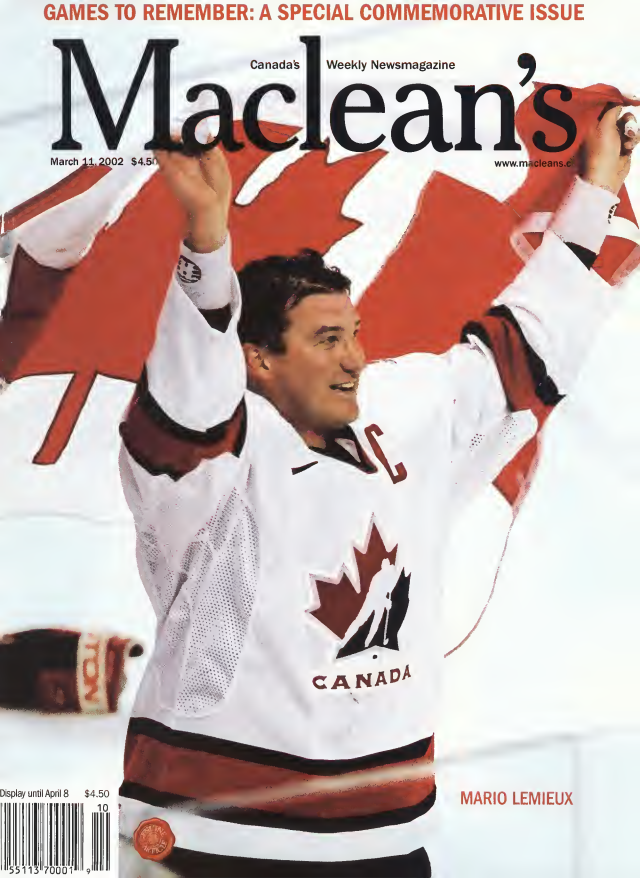
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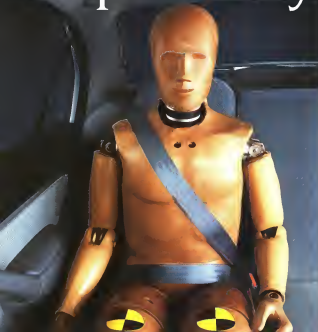


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From the Editor

The Games, the Canadian way

My favourite line about hockey—and yes, I've cited it before—comes from Ken Dryden. Asked once what he thought was hockey's greatest error, he said it's whatever it was when you were 12 years old: players and referees from their team laager. I was a bit older than that when I saw Paul Henderson lead Team Canada past the Soviet Union in the 1972 Super Series for me, that's our greatest hockey achievement of my lifetime. Meanwhile, my son marked his first birthday Feb. 24, the day Canada won its first Olympic hockey gold in 50 years—so he faces a ruff challenge if, in 11 years, he expects to better this.

On this and other things, my son and I will have different benchmarks—but my wife and I already look forward to the time when he's old enough that we can tell him about a day already certain to become part of our national lore. The TV ratings alone give a measure of Canadians' interest: more than 12 million people tuned in to the game—and that's not even including all those who watched it in bars and other public places. But there are more reasons than that game for Canadians to remember these Games fondly. Among others, they showed off the grit and guts of the women's hockey team, the dominance of our speed skaters, the grace of our figure skaters—and, even though there was no gold, many of us learned new appreciation for curling's complexity.

This was our tribute to the Canadian athletes who took part in the Games. For the first time as a newsweekly, we moved up our regular deadline to present this special package, a commemorative look at the Games and the very Canadians mired in the accomplishments of our athletes. It's also one of the few times we've turned a feature over to coverage of a single news event, and our hope is that many of

you will use it as a keystone of the Games, to look back on with fondness—or to show to your kids—years from now. We offer voices from both in and outside Canada, including contributions from Pulitzer-prize-winning American journalist David Szusterman, noted Connecticut-based, Canadian-born illustrator Barry Blitt, hockey fan extraordinaire Gordon Giffin, better known as the former U.S. ambassador to Canada, and Moscow-based foreign correspondent Matthew Fisher. And our two correspondents at the Games, Sports Editor Janet Deacon and Vancouver Bureau Chief Ken MacQuinn, along with photographer Christopher Wahl, used this opportunity to take a final look back in words and pictures at what they lived through.

All of our athletes deserve praise, although, fairly or not, the two hockey golds have particular resonance. That's largely because the sport defines and obscures us in ways unlike any other—and has sometimes caused so much anguish. This time, there's another race element to victory: it's largely free of the political undercurrent that provided an unwelcome backdrop for many previous international matchups. It's hard to imagine a home or competitor more gracious than the U.S. in Salt Lake City, especially where Canada was concerned.

After an event of immediate importance, two contradictory reactions often follow: we presume it will be quickly forgotten, or declare its significance will last for ages. What will people think of these Games in 50 years—if that's what it takes to win another hockey gold? No matter for now, let's all just be 12 years old again.

Andrew W. Schindler

Macleans

Canada's Weekly Newsweekly

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The Mail

Golden glow

As I sat watching the Olympic hockey final between Canada and the U.S., I became overwhelmed by the emotions of the moment. I wasn't an American but a North American watching a game between two friendly "Dream Teams" of a game both nations love. If I believed in reincarnation I would swear my past life was a cheerleader for Canada. Congratulations Canada! I hope you don't mind sharing the gold with us Americans, who love and admire you.

Paul D. Smith, Vancouver, Wash.

More than being glad for Wayne Gretzky, I was particularly happy for Brendan Shanahan. His heartfelt apology to his country after the Nagano defeat in 1998 ("Stand-up guy," *Cover*, Jan. 14, 2002) has stuck with me for those past four years, and it was him, more than anyone else in that

lineup, that I wanted to see have the gold medal placed around his neck. Still, as much as I enjoyed those Olympic hockey games, I can't help but feel that this is not a place for the professionals. Perhaps I am naive, but for the amateurs at the Olympics there was an element of "my performance here will affect the rest of my life," be it from lucrative endorsements or a shot at a professional hockey career. I also think the national pride factor isn't strong with the pros. With their multi-million-dollar salaries, they really don't have anything on the line other than pride. Combine this with the conflicts with the Players' Association (which accommodated the Olympic players not practicing together during the off-season) and the discussions as to whether the pros will be allowed to play in the 2006 Olympics in Italy and I think you have an element that doesn't belong in the Olympics.

Chris Blais, New Maryland, N.J.

Uniform quality

I couldn't help noticing that the Canadian team was possibly the best dressed at the Olympics. It's too bad we couldn't put the same importance on our soldiers going to war for our country in Afghanistan. They have to wear their old, dark uniforms in order to blend in, to try and stay alive.

Brian Thompson, Canada's Beach Mile

Congratulations to the 2002 Canadian Olympic hockey team and Canadians around the world for their gold-medal win. Your passion and heart won a warm place in all our hearts—yes, even in the good U.S.A. You earned it, you deserve it, and it brings a smile to the American face to have witnessed the accomplishment and the joy of your fellow countrymen and women. We celebrate with you, and appreciate your winning players on our NHL teams (Bengt from Denver, we think Joe Sakic is the greatest.)

Cynthia Karpus, Denver

Canadians are cool

As a Canadian living in Hawaii where Canadian viewpoints on news and sports are rare, it has been refreshing to see that Americans are starting to get it. Television coverage stating that the hottest-selling items at the Olympics (the American uniforms no less) are from a Canadian company is a big thing. That Americans are saying that Canadians are "cool" is almost unbelievable. And that curling was actually shown on television and that it is

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Miracle kids

There's hardly a parent who doesn't know the feeling of having to take a child for medical attention. There's always fear, but it's mixed with the relief of knowing that help is close at hand. Often, that help is only available because of the work of the Children's Miracle Network. Without its extra funding, many of the services our children's hospitals offer, such as education and preventive programs or specialized equipment, just wouldn't exist.

Children's Miracle Network hospitals help over two million children in Canada every year.

Here are just a few of their stories.

A boy's life

By the time he received a kidney transplant at age eight, Christopher Sharlow of Montreal, Quebec, had already undergone 15 surgeries and had been hospitalized more than 75 times.

Born with an abnormal kidney, Christopher battled a host of medical problems that kept him in and out of hospital throughout his childhood. He even spent his fifth birthday at the local CMN member hospital (Ottawa's Enfant Soleil) during a stay that lasted a mere summer.

Through it all, his quiet tenor has kept his cool, showing the patience, kindness and fighting spirit that define him. Although he knows there will be more procedures down the line, Christopher is doing well and enjoying all that comes with being healthy.

Getting stronger

Nothing has come easy for five-year-old Abby McMane of Moose Jaw. Born 14 weeks early at just under two pounds, she spent the first three-and-a-half months of her life fighting for survival in a neonatal intensive care unit.

At some point during those first critical months, Abby developed mild cerebral palsy, primarily affecting her legs and torso. Physical and occupational therapy at the Children's Health Foundation of Saskatchewan have helped improve the strength and flexibility of her muscles, but Abby's inner strength is what truly drives her progress.

Lately she has been working hard to pick things up by herself, improve her balance and walk on her own. With her sunny nature and far-reaching sense of mischief, Abby is happy, active and thriving.

Life goes on

When Kayla Prince was a week old, her parents noticed a small reddish spot on her cheek. Soon, more spots appeared, and within a month doctors at Janeway Children's Health & Rehabilitation Centre in Newfoundland diagnosed a birth irregularity called vascular hemangioma.

In most cases hemangioma disappears after a few months or years, but Kayla's case was extreme and she spent almost her entire first year in the hospital. Her heart became enlarged and the massive hemangioma left a lot of scar tissue on her face. So far she has had more than 20 operations, and the effects of Kayla's condition have been minimized by skin grafts and plastic surgery.

Now 12, Kayla plays volleyball, delivers newspapers and goes to weekly dances with her friends. There are more operations ahead, but these days her thoughts are right where they should be — on friends, sports and having fun.

Where the money goes

Your local children's hospital decides how best to use the funding it receives from the Children's Miracle Network. Our children's hospital foundation has three priorities:

- medical research into asthma, cancer, kidney disease and other pediatric conditions
- a Homecare Therapy Program for patients
- the hospital's in-house, closed-circuit TV station for kids
- IMPACT, an injury prevention program
- specialized equipment

Waiting for the call

When a late-night phone call from Toronto's Hospital for Sick Children awoke the Weil family in November of 1999, the wait was finally over for two-year-old Sydney. Diagnosed as an infant with a liver disorder called biliary atresia, Sydney had spent most of her life awaiting a transplant.

During her two-year wait for a new liver Sydney had to be hospitalized several times, but her spirit and her family kept her going.

With a successful transplant behind her, this engaging little girl is now full of life and ready for the road ahead.



Here's how you can help make miracles

You can support the Children's Miracle Network through automatic monthly donations from any TD Canada Trust chequing or savings account. The TD Children's Hospital Fund channels customer donations directly to the local Children's Miracle Network hospital, and TD Bank Financial Group matches these funds up to a maximum of \$1 million per year for the network. You can donate as little as \$1 a month and change your donation amount at any time. For annual donations over \$10, you will receive a registered charitable tax receipt in time for tax season.

To start your automatic monthly donation, drop into your TD Canada Trust branch or call 1-800-868-0888. For more information, visit www.don.com/childrens.

It Takes More Than A Kiss... ...to make it better.

It takes teamwork. And it takes money. Plenty of it. Why? Because although we enjoy a universal health care system, that system still needs additional support. In fact, many of the services that our children's hospitals offer wouldn't exist without the extra funding provided by the Children's Miracle Network. And that's why we're asking for your help.

TD Bank Financial Group[®] has been a committed sponsor of the Children's Miracle Network since 1995. The children we help suffer from cancer, birth defects, cerebral palsy, AIDS, and other afflictions. The Network helps over 2 million children each

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Thank you



Bank Financial Group

TD Children's Hospital Fund

Overture

Edited by Shanda Deibel with Amy Cameron



Over and Under Achievers

Now there's something to smile about

- ◆ **The women's hockey team:** Four girls to glory led the way, showing male counterparts how it's done.
- ◆ **The men's team:** In the end, men beat just a bunch of pretty faces. To paraphrase that soccer announcer: "Goosooooo!"
- ◆ **The American ref of Canada-U.S. women's hockey final:** Ouch!
- ◆ **Janie Sale/David Pelletier:** Role!
- ◆ **Other medal winners:** Cool!
- ◆ **That French figure skater judge:** Apolitical man!
- ◆ **Ottawa Clinqueto (president of the International Skating Union):** I look like the guy who used to be Pauline in the outdoor rinks in those old movies. But in the end he gave Sir Pelletier their gold.
- ◆ **American sports fans:** Next up: public pressure. Sir Sale-Pelletier got gold instead precisely when our hockey teams beat theirs. He turned to references to "cool Canada" without a smicker, put on a beaming good Olympics.

Overbites

- "They may have won the gold, but how all they're seeing is white!" —**Procter & Gamble spokesperson** refers to figure skaters **Janie Sale** and **David Pelletier** who just signed a deal to endorse Oreo!
- "I'm very proud of what I accomplished. I just love to skate!" —**Speed skater Marc Gagne**, who won two golds and one bronze.
- "I wanted to curl up. I wanted my man!" —**Speed skater Clare Hughes** after winning bronze in a frosty 5000-m race.
- "Belarus! Belarus!" —**Swedish Music Lead (The David's)** locker room chant to returning **Swedisher Mats Sundin** and **Michael Redden**, who were members of the Swedish team that lost to the underdogs from Belarus.
- "I wish we could take this team and Jerusalem with it. Become the Gladiators!" —**Marit Jackey coach Pat Quinn**.
- "It is officially cool to be a Canadian at the Winter Olympics. The country's team is wearing the most stylish ice, their figure skaters."
- Janie Sale and David Pelletier are the biggest stars of the Games and plan to see the Toronto pop group **Damien & Ladd** were the hottest tickets to town!" —**The Guardian of London**.
- "We were so excited after that race that I gave her a big hug and kiss. We looked at each other almost in shock. I said, 'I hope I didn't just get you sick. And she said, 'He has.'" —**American Olympic cross-country skier Justin Wadsworth**, who had a cold throughout the Games broke a self-imposed quarantine from his girlfriend. Canadian cross-country skier **Beckie Scott**, to congratulate her on her sixth place finish in the 30-km classical race. She went on to win bronze in the combined pursuit.
- "The Americans had our flag on the floor of their dressing room. Now I want to know if they want us to sign it?" —**Wayne Whitehouse**, after Canada beat the U.S. in women's hockey.
- "This is how much people watch the Olympics. The guy at U.S. Customs says, 'Congratulations on your gold medal. Now show me your ID.'" —**Figure skater Pelletier**.



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Team Canada adds a gold to its Olympic resume.

Illustration by Robert Longley/Reynolds & Reynolds

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Allan Fotheringham

The heart of the game

The mythology of hockey in a land that actually likes winters that are cold, runs deep. At the Sydney Olympics, at a swish cocktail party hosted by the Canadian consul general, there was spotted across the room Paul Henderson, a Toronto plumbing millionaire who is president of the International Skating Federation and, as such, was just elected a member of the 100-most elite of the famed/infamous International Olympic Committee. Your scribbler, used for his dandy humour, attended to a sportswriter standing beside me, that Paul had certainly lost a lot of hair and gained a lot of weight since scoring that goal in Moscow in 1972.

My wife, who knows a lot about art but nothing about sport, demanded he be introduced. Henderson, beneath his bald pate being a gracious man, invited us over to lunch the next day on his boat to view the Olympic sailing finals in Sydney's famous harbour. Said wife showed that Henderson had saved her life. While working for an insurance company in Montreal in 1973, went to Moscow with a friend, doing the usual thing in those days of selling jeans and reflets in Russian kids. The cops grabbed them, thinking they might be doing drugs, and pinned them in the police station.

The young lady, taking the Fifth and thinking she was headed to the Gulag in Siberia, refused to answer any questions until she had a representative from the Canadian Embassy. "You're Canadians?" and the awarded free. They had assumed the two were Americans. They screamed and yelled about that 1972 winning Canada team. And you, the impounded, 'look like Paul Henderson. And you,' pointing to his companion, 'look like Paul Rapinoff.' They were free to resume.

The short, bald plumbing millionaire, patiently hearing the tale, looked at her and said, "You're still involved to the bone or now, but I can't see the guy." Back Paul Henderson, not the real Paul Henderson, has probably had to confess, "I can't see the guy" every day of his life for 30 years. And the real Paul Henderson, who became a drinker because of his fame, now in an earth-shaking has become a Christian evangelist. Such a life. Such a hockey.

Hockey is every Prairie kid, trying to possess the skating skills of Syd Apple on a curling rink, imagining his life doors of playing left wing on the Toronto Maple Leafs (his love). And who can never forget, long after disavowing, their mother demanding they come in from the freezing cold under spotlight on the backyard rink while trying to perfect the gifts of Gordie Drillon and Mud Bruner and the Knave

Line of the Boston Bruins Schmidt, Bauer and Dumont that would never be allowed in today's politically correct sports pages. And Rach Caron, across the Two Solos, exploring in his classic *The Hockey Season* how his mother writing to Mr. Eaton in Toronto got the hunkered young boy a Maple Leaf jersey by mistake that he had to wear on the outdoor rinks with his buddies, all Canadian wannabes.

Hockey is the most clever, even, play in Salt Lake City when the pass from Chris Pronger from the right wing went to Mario Lemieux right in front of the York goalie and he instinctively opened his legs and let it go right through to Paul Kurty who he knew had the better angle, the goalie diving out front. I tried to explain this to several women while we were watching and whooping the score, and one said, "Who would teach him that?" Modest, as always, I explained that you can't teach genius.

Just as Wayne Gretzky, who at age 10 scored 378 goals in 68 games in Stamford, Conn., and, maligned by his teammates' whooping parents that "he had too much ice time," revealed in a recent TV interview that he "cried himself to sleep every night" after leaving his family at age 14 to move to a Toronto minor league. And, the best description of all, from Russian national hockey coach, on seeing this magician on skates for the first time: "He appears from nowhere, he passes to nowhere, and there is a goal!"

Possibly the best simile I have seen in sportswriting came from Rex MacLeod in the *Toronto Star* when the B.C. Lions, winning their first Grey Cup in 1964 over the Hamilton Tiger-Cats in Toronto's Exhibition Stadium, describing the Vancouver scout Willie Herring—who in one CFL season set a rushing record of 97 yards per carry, never equalled in any pro league. He ran, wrote MacLeod, "the way Max Baerley skated." Herringsey (who achieved early fame at the *Toronto Star*) never said it better. Mentioned it cuffed every way when everyone thought he would quit.

Bearley, with his slicked-down hair looking like a French movie villain, with two brothers making the NHL also, came from Delta, in Saskatchewan, where all the great ones come from: Bryan Trottier, once the leader of the Stanley Cup champion New York Islanders, was born and raised in Val Marie near Chateau, Sask. Where they had—no one ever believes me of this—a really pretty called the Wooley Cloc.

Which we just had in nearby/looming Salt Lake City, where they believe in many wives being more important than one gold medal.



HOW SWEET IT IS!

First, Canada's women took top honours. Then, after half a century, our men's team finally recaptured Olympic hockey gold.

Mike Richter got just a piece of Jarome Iginla's one-time slap shot with four minutes left in the Olympic gold-medal men's hockey game. It was a desperate effort by the American goalie, who was sliding across the crease to his right and had to reach back with his left hand to intercept the Canadian winger's blast. As if in slow motion, the puck tumbled end-over-end off Richter's glove, headed toward the bottom right-hand corner of the gaping net.

Around the packed E Center, there was a collective gasp as fans watched the puck's progress. Its fate was critical: Canada held a slim 3-2 lead, and with no time on the clock, the Americans had to keep the score close if they were to have any chance. On the benches, players from both teams stood up to get a better look. In the second deck, the most anxious observers of all—Team Canada managers Wayne Gretzky, Kevin Lowe and Steve Tambellini—leaned out over the balcony in anticipation. And on the ice, Joe Sakic, Iginla's captain and the person closest to the play, tried to redirect the floundering puck in mid-air with his stick to make sure it went in. He missed.

Anyone who has followed men's international hockey competition lately knows Canada's ambitions have frequently been thwarted by near-misses and really hot goalies. In fact, it was the very same Richter who scored the Canadians at the 1996 World Cup of Hockey, handing the otherwise out-gunned Americans a major upset. Two years later in Nagano, Darrin Hieck, the Czech Republic's goaltender, was unbeatable in the semifinal shootout and led the Czechs to the gold medal.

But Canada got the bounce this time. The puck dropped inside the post, just before defenceman Tim Tonn could get to it and sweep it out of harm's way. On the ice, Iginla, Sakic and Steve Yzerman practically crashed one another in celebration. Canadian fans in the stands, who made up about 30 per cent of the crowd of 10,000, went berserk: waving flags and shouting CA-NA-DIA! Gretzky and Co., meanwhile, leaped from their seats, propelled as much by status as by pay. The pressure that built over 18 months in the 2002 Olympic team was put together; the frustrations of past but never-forgotten losses, and the sleepless nights that preceded Sunday's final were swept away in the euphoria.



A thing of beauty The medalless men's team celebrates after a game that deserves to be remembered among the defining moments in Canada's collective experience, right there with pivotal elections and Expo 67



Piling on The victorious women's hockey team were considered a long shot against the U.S., which had beaten them eight straight times. But in this game, there was no doubt the better team won.

of the women. "Our country desperately needed to win this tournament," an exhausted Gortley said afterwards.

It was all over but the shouting. And not the noisy tradition that was played over the public address system during the medal ceremony. With 30 seconds left, red-clad fans rose from their seats all around the arena and belted out their own heartfelt *O Canada*. By then, Salac—named the tournament MVP—had made a 5-2, beating Richter on a breakaway. It was spontaneous and sweet and moving, not just for those in the crowd but also for the players. Hearing fans singing the anthem "was just unbelievable," forward Simon Gagné said. "It became tough to focus on the prize because it was such a great feeling. It made me so proud to begin of the team that brought the gold medal back after 90 years."

For that alone, the final competition on the 2002 Winter Games schedule deserves to be considered among the defining moments in Canada's collective experience, right there with postal elections and Expo 67. The hockey president has been set: Game 8 in the 1972 Summit Series against the Soviet Union in Moscow is already there. So too the Montreal Canadiens vs. Red Army confrontation on New Year's Eve in 1975. Ditto Gortley-to-Lemieux at the 1987 Canada Cup. And a strong case can be made for the women's team thrilling 3-2 triumph over the United States that gave Canada its first hockey gold here.

It's not that a game is so important, or even hockey. It's that so many watched this game and cared about it that it became a national event transcending sport. According to overnight ratings, the men's final drew an average of 10.25 million viewers on Sunday afternoon, which makes it the most-watched TV program in Canadian history. Viewership peaked at nearly 12.6 million during the closing minutes and post-game celebrations. For fans in the arena, it was once-in-a-lifetime stuff. "What an amazing game—unbelievable," a deliriously happy Scott Burns, 26, of Ottawa, said after the medal had been handed out. "I think this is our generation's '72, without a doubt."

It wasn't just a scorebook success. The final game was a thing of beauty. It didn't have the low-minute heroics of 1972 and 1987, but it contained a breath-taking pace from the opening faceoff to the final whistle. Most strikingly to Canadian fans, there was the unmistakable conviction of their team, which had started slowly in the

Steve Delaney/USA

Olympic tournament but had sounded into form at precisely the right time. The big defencemen—Chris Pronger, Rob Blake and Adam Foote especially—had figured out the trick of keeping incoming forwards to the outside on the large ice surface, and limiting opponent attacks. And Sakic, Iginla and Gagné had become the most dangerous forward unit at the Games.

On Sunday, even in the pre-game warm-up, the players were deliberate and focused, and once the puck was dropped, their opponents noticed. "You could tell they needed it," said U.S. captain Jeremy Roenick. "You could tell in the way they played. Fifty years of tradition was put up in the way they played. I would have loved to win, but I respect the people who won tremendously. It was an honour to play in today's game."

What a way to conclude an Olympics. Over the final seven days here, Yvonne Boucher and Debra Dupont finished silver-bronze in freestyle aerials. In short-track speed skating, the women's 3,000-m relay team took bronze, while the women's hockey team grabbed their gold. The women's curling rink won bronze and the men followed with silver. Speed skater Clara Hughes produced a gutsy bronze-medal performance in the 5,000 m—a finish that made the former cyclist the first Canadian ever to win medals in both Summer and Winter Games (she earned two bronze medals in 1996). And then, on the eve of the last men's hockey game, three-time Olympic Mac Gagne and teammate Jonathan Mascarenha finished one-two in the 500-m short-track final and then led the men's 5,000-m relay team to yet another gold here that night. Talk about streaked—after a tough start to the Olympics, that great sporting moment, moments had shifted Canada's way.

The women's hockey victory was the most exciting because of its underdog appeal. The two North American teams were the class of the tournament, and the game was played at a ferocious clip. But Canada's women were decided long down since they had lost eight straight pre-Olympic games to the Americans. And although they cruised easily through earlier games, the Canadians struggled against the Finns in the semifinal before finally getting untracked in the third period for a come-from-behind, 7-3 win.

But who can predict an Olympic result?



Unshakable conviction

As the Canadians keep up the pressure on the U.S., Paul Kariya scores in the first period (above) while Sakic shoots on Richter in the third

There was plenty of motivation on the Canadian side: they lost the gold medal in 1998 to the Americans, and that memory was still agonisingly fresh for the veterans on the team. So in the championship game here, they ran the pace from the start, forechecking the U.S. in a standstill for long stretches. And they achieved that despite an incomprehensibly one-sided effort by the American core, says Steve Livingston, who at one stage called eight straight penalties against Canada and seemed intent on making sure the home team won. Led by Hayley Wickenham and Vicki Sundborn, the Canadian penalty killers did wonders. And even then, the 3-2 final was decided quite as justice to the Canadian warrior edge in play. There was no doubt that the better team won. "We didn't care about those eight games we lost," captain Cassie Campbell said after the playoff final. "This was the only game that counted."

The men's world was less calm, especially in the ranks of hockey-obsessed second-generation who for months debated every single player selection and management appointment. Their criticism turned particularly ugly when the team started to slowly losing to first game 5-2 to Sweden and only just edging the Germans, 3-2. The players were alarmed, too, especially

after the spanking they took in the opening. "After the Sweden game," Sakic said, "there were a lot of doubts. But that game forced us to come together as a team."

As the mid-line again Germany illustrated, that coming together didn't happen exclusively. Gertiey, who isn't used to such widespread criticism, was also feeling the burden of responsibility—in his hand-picked group of players appeared to be going in the wrong direction. He didn't see getting to know, and that he learned an old job here, the Edmonton Oilers general manager, for hockey. Yet he summoned a trick learned from his former Oilers coach, Glen Sather, by accepting the negative attention away from the players. After Game 3 against the Czechs, a 3-3 tie that was the team's first promising performance, and on the eve of the most important stage of the tournament, Gertiey laid out uncharacteristically stoic, saying: among other odd things, that the whole world watched Canadian hockey to fail.

It was a timely yell. "Us vs the World" call to arms—some U.S. newspapers blotted it to Kariya's book. "We are one for the Gipper," Gertiey became the focus of fans' anger, and while there's no way of knowing if it helped the players, the gold medal suggests it didn't hurt. "Our



As the Canadians keep up the pressure on the U.S., Paul Kariya scores in the first period (above) while Sakic shoots on Richter in the third

Setting the pace

Japan's Maffei scores the winning goal against the U.S. In the women's championship, while Wickenham (below) fires one of the Finnish net

team, behind the scenes and everywhere, had taken to much criticism," a mood-breaking Gertiey explained after the final. "I felt we weren't comfortable and relaxed. I felt, 'Okay, take some heat off the guys,' and I did. But I didn't sleep for five days."

There was no Paul Henderson here. An unlikely star, Henderson scored three straight game-winning goals in 1972, including the famous last one off a scramble in front of Vladivostok. But the team owed much to its experienced hands. Playing hurt, Mario Lemieux wasn't the imposing figure many had hoped he'd be, but his leadership-by-example style, along with that of Yermakov and Sakic, was crucial. After being released by their National Hockey League teams, the players had only one practice day before the game started here. And then there were those initial glowing praise. "The first couple of games, there wasn't a lot of talk in the dressing room, not a lot of emotion," said centre Joe Nieuwenhuis. "Guys were trying to figure out their roles, so it took while to come together."

If it showed, of course, but the veterans stayed calm. Gertiey was unforgoingly confident, at least in public, and eventually 23 players from 15 NHL teams became a unified force. On defence, tough along

the boards, dangerous in the offensive zone and, above all, fast. "I wish we could take the team and batman with it. Become the Globetrotters," enthused coach Pat Quinn after it was all over.

The NHL, the players' association and the International Ice Hockey Federation have yet to negotiate an agreement with organizers of the 2006 Olympics in Turin, Italy, to send the top pros to these Games. Some NHL stars oppose more having to interrupt their regular season during Olympic years. Nor do they like it when the guys they pay to play get injured at the Games, when they're only playing for national pride. The Detroit Red Wings, for instance, lost their leading scorer, Brendan Shanahan, and captain, Yermakov, for a couple of games. Yermakov never fully recovered from January knee surgery, while Shanahan broke his right tibia midway through the tournament. Both played in the Olympics when they probably shouldn't have. "You can go a long way on adrenaline," Shanahan said, smiling. "Adrenaline and painkillers."

If the NHL does balk in 2006, it would be a terrible loss for fans. Just as in 1998, the Olympic tournament was an exhibition of the best hockey seasons observed had ever seen. On the wider international

ice surface, it was an exciting, free-wheeling spectacle, the kind that cramped NHL rules can't accommodate. And there were the greatest players on Earth: Canada, the U.S., Russia, Sweden, Czech Republic and Finland all had dozens team-like seasons stacked with NHL stars. "I don't think you'll see any country dominate international hockey again, because everyone's so balanced," said Yermakov. "It's now down to who gets a together. Look at Sweden—they were awesome"—and even then they somehow lost to upstart Belarus. Since the Olympics are supposed to feature the world's best athletes, it makes sense that hockey should showcase its best players, too. "Hopefully, this sends a message to the NHL," said Tim Greenberg, a 26-year-old American who flew in for the final. "The game belongs here."

The players agree. The Olympics are the only true international contest for them. The world championships fall right in the middle of the NHL playoffs every year, so nobody cares. The Canada Cup is doozed and the World Cup is in months, and neither of them interested the Europeans much. But a gold medal meant something to every player here, and that incentive makes for great hockey. "I just hope they keep using NHL players in the Olympics," Yermakov said.

As in 1998, the players mostly lived in the athletes' village, and the camaraderie among competitors in different sports was something Gertiey cherished about his Nagano experience. "Even though we lost," he said, "being part of the team at the Olympics is still one of the greatest experiences of my life." The merge and success of other athletes was valuable in Salt Lake as well. "We took a lot of inspiration," Pronger said. "Born here Canadian women's men played against the U.S."

As abruptly as it was: thrown together, the players dispersed. There will be no men's hockey parade down Ste-Catherine or Yonge or Portage or Granville because the players' employees wanted them back and filling was in NHL risks right away. Fair enough—the NHL clubs are the ones playing the big bucks. But for fans, it'll probably take some time to get excited about two hockey after seeing what the game can be like when the world's best get some room to move. And for the millionaires, members of Team Canada, well, it's doubtful they'll ever longer have much fun they had playing for nothing, more than national pride.

PARTY TIME

All across the country, jubilant fans joined in spontaneous celebration



Bragging rights Excited fans gathered to Parliament Hill (opposite) after Canada's thrilling 5-2 victory over the U.S. in men's hockey. At Calgary's Canada Olympic Park, Jesse O'Leary and Christian Hudek joined the crowd tuned in to the TV coverage (top). In Montreal, revelers commandeered a bus as they peered into town.

BY ROBERT SHEPPARD

They seemed to emerge from nowhere. Hockey fans in millions: moms and pops and gap-toothed toddlers with eyes as wide as saucers, craning the down-town streets, waving flags and blowing horns out the open van doors (Don't they know that's against the law?)

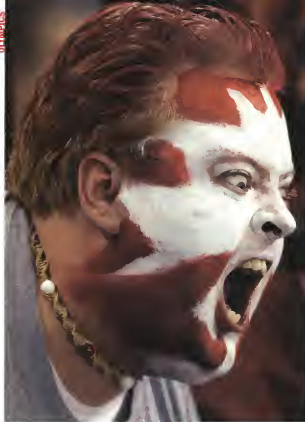
What's going on in this country anyway?

In hockey-frenzied Brandon, Man., the guys in the beer hall leapt to their feet and roared when the final buzzer sounded on Sunday, ending Canada's 50-year gold medal drought in Olympic men's hockey. Then they stood straight up like war vets at a coronation and actually removed their baseball caps for the playing of the national anthem. Some phenomenon in Toronto, to the astonishment of a world-weary 17-year-old of my acquaintance: "Dad, we were in this guy's room and the boys actually stood up and took their two off for O Canada. I mean, it's not like we don't hear it every day in school."

Ah, my child. You're so right. It's not like that at all. And this isn't a toughhouse, beat-'em-to-the-tilly hockey we're glorifying here either. This is a—gasp, unless—something dangerously close to patriotism. Ask Geoff Beldue.

The 35-year-old Vancouver lawyer and his close friends just flew on Friday, when the Canadian men beat poor-beat-out Belarus, that they had to be at the Canada-U.S. final on Sunday. They found no tickets over the Internet for up to US\$1,200 each. Unable to get a flight to Salt Lake City, they chartered a plane and flew to Wyoming, declaring themselves out of official real Roots gear. Then they hired someone with an SUV to drive them straight to the arena. Was it worth the expense? "Absolutely," says Beldue. "This was watching the greatest hockey team ever put together. I had known in my stomach." And the American fans were more than gracious. "They were saying, 'Those are not only the two best hockey nations in the world, they are the two best nations.' I couldn't have been any prouder."

It was not alone. From Vancouver, and other economies, to Cape Breton, where 50 members of the Madron clan gathered to watch favorite son Al, the defenseman, hold off the attacking Yanks, Canadians poured into the streets in celebration after the game. "I felt like I was living a phone commercial," says 31-year-old woodworker Michael Stader, who trailed Toronto's



True patriot love Jacob Christian at Edmonton (opposite) and Walter Gretzky (above left), father of Team Canada executive director Wayne Gretzky, react to the hockey action in Salt Lake. A Canadian goal has Reto Gherzi, 9, smiling as he watches the final at an Ottawa electronics store. Outside, fans jump for joy (top right) in the streets of the capital after Canada's victory.

you pushed Yonge Street, impaired beer stuffed in his pockets, holding his cellphone aloft for the benefit of relatives in Europe. Not even Calgary's 20° C could inhibit fans from squealing into a hazed roar at Canada Olympic Park to arbitrate the event on a big screen. And within minutes of the match ending, an impromptu game of street hockey broke out at Canada's most famous intersection: Winnipeg's Forth and Main. It doesn't get more Canadian than that: life imitating a beer commercial.

To borrow a phrase from CBC play caller Bob Cole, "This is some game, dat boy!" With some history, too: Stanley Cup riots, rink rage, concussions and spiral injuries, the mutually cruel of a cold arena, men and now women with sticks [you gotta love that take-no-prisoners grin of a Hayley Wickenhauser]. A contest of hardy controlled brutality, yet in fierce grace can somehow grab us by our sweaty buns and make us all giddy and tribal.

Hockey is our game. It's like a religion, pundits intoned, perhaps trading more into an event than they should have. "This game cannot be trivialized," says New Brunswick writer [Hayley Dumas, among other hooded David Adams Richards. "It's far greater than that." For Richards, hockey is an activity of pure

childlike spontaneity, developed by "the bullhorn crowds of Scottish and Irish immigrants to thumb their noses at the quiet British aristocracy." The freedom of the ice and the non-thumbing are to two essential ingredients. "We are actually a very shy people," says Richards. "But there are a few things that we know and one is hockey. We don't have to be told why the game needs to be played." Cue the horns.

Truth be told, the party felt more like Halloween than church: youngsters with their faces painted and body parts covered by flags, youngsters blowing their horns out with horns [wasn't this a rebel right?], reported performance can crackle out with duct tape that read "Canada Rules." At one Vancouver fan screamed in the frenzy of GM Place in the game ended: "That was better than losing my virginity."

And for a younger generation, that's kind of what it was: Canadian booties already have their hockey memories in a glass case. Was this as good for you as the rivalry over the Soviets in 1972? "Oh, no," shouts back 52-year-old Susan's trade Bruce Whaley. "There was so much more drama and buildup to that. And it was 'our system' against theirs!" But what happened at Salt Lake City was the passing of the torch, not just from hockey legends of

50 years ago to the greats of today, but from one generation of fanatics to the next. Nearly 12.6 million tuned in to the game on TV, the biggest one-time audience in Canadian history.

Where were you when Canada beat the U.S. for Olympic gold? From the base camp at Kandahar, where Canadian Forces turned in, to beamed goals in the Scottish Highlands, overruled by Canadian exiles, a little dose of nose-thumbing crazy Canadians wended its way around the world. Actor-comedian Rick Mercer had a 5 p.m. fight out of Toronto on Sunday. A heads-up guy, Mercer showed up at the airport four hours early to make out a scene by the smoking lounge TV well in time for the big show. Passengers came and went: "You could tell some people just said shag it and didn't get on their plane at all," says Mercer. He was lucky; his flight was delayed and he caught the whole game. "It's not very often you go out of your way to spend extra time in an airport," he observes. "And it's not very often that you're praying your flight will be delayed." Thankfully for Canada came through. **C** o p y

With Bruce Beggs, Amy Cameron, John DeMont, Sharon Doyle-Drover and Dorothy Henselbick



WINNERS GALLERY

From hockey to speed skating, Canada soared at these Olympics, taking home a record 17 medals. These are the people who made it happen.

Men's hockey team Wayne's boys kept their gold-hungry nation on edge, floundering at the start and getting a lucky boost from Sweden-bashing Belarus. But in the end they didn't disappoint. After a 50-year drought, Canada moved through to glory, 5-2 over the U.S.



Canada's Le May Doan When the 35-year-old Sochi-born artist took the ice for her 500-exhibit, Canada was still reeling from skater Jessica Watson's fall and the pair's scandal. So in winning the nation's first gold, she raised more than just the flag.

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OLYMPICS



Women's hockey team No victory was sweeter. Reaction all year by Team USA, Canada was the clear underdog as the puck dropped. But the 20 women, determined to shatter Hagare's dashed expectations, played the game of their lives and won gold.



Veronica Brenner and Deirda Dionne Each had something to prove in world skiing. Brenner (left), 27, of Shonan, Ont., had been out with a knee injury. Red Deer's Dionne, 26, had only two years' world experience. Brenner's proof was silver, Dionne's bronze.



Jamie Salé and David Pelletier With reform of the disgraced judging system in the skis, figure skaters Salé, 24, and Pelletier, 27, stood (at right) with Karelle Clave Benschop and Anton Sibirskiy after mounting the winner's podium a second time.



Men's curling team It was reverse skip as for 25-year-old skip Kevin Martin (above, left). His risk of Don Bartlett, Carter Rycraft, Ken Trimborg and Don Welchak qualified for the Games on their final stone. Against Norway for gold, Martin had the last rock again—but missed by millimeters. Result: silver.

Women's curling team Skip Kelley Law (above) faced a previously vanquished foe in Britain's Rhona Martin in the semi-finals. But this time the Scot prevailed, knocking the O.C. risk of Law, Diane Nelson, Cheryl Noble, Julie Skinner and Georgina Wenzel into the bronze game, where they beat the U.S.



Cindy Klassen The 22-year-old Winnipeg skater was Canada's first medal of the Games—a bronze in the 3,000 m—and finished fourth in her two other events.



Women's relay team Led by three-time Olympian Isabelle Charest (right), who came out of retirement to earn a spot on the speed skating team, the quartet needed to know in the 3,000-m event teammates (from left) Alanna Kraus, 24, Marie-Eve Gosselin, 20, Tania Vicari, 26, and Andrie Gosselin-Hodson, 19, helped 21-year-old Charest celebrate.



Jonathan Guilmette The 23-year-old silver is the 500-m short track capped a remarkable comeback from a near career-ending injury in 1999, when he broke his femur.



Beckie Scott The Vernon, Alta., native was Canada's first ever medal for cross-country skiing. She edged out the Czech favorites to take bronze in the five-km free pursuit.



Marc Gagnon The native of Chicoutimi, Que., became Canada's most decorated winter Olympian of all time, winning three speed-skating medals in Salt Lake City. The 26-year-old will add the gold he received for the 500-m short track (above), a relay team gold and his 1,500-m bronze to a trophy case that already contains a gold and a bronze from Olympics past.



Men's 5,000-m relay team It's tough being the defending Olympic champs, but skaters Jonathan Guilmette, Eric Fiedor, Mathieu Yanez, Marc Gagnon and Philippe-Louis Trumblay made it look easy by blowing away China and Italy to capture the gold.



Mathieu Turcotte After being knocked down in the 1,000-m short-track final, the 25-year-old Montrealer scooped to his feet in time to finish third, just behind the U.S. silver medalist.



Clara Hughes The 29-year-old Winnipeg skater became only the fourth athlete to medal in both Winter and Summer Games. She'll add her 5,000-m bronze to two 1996 bronzes in cycling.



BY KEN MACQUEEN in Salt Lake City

It's the last Saturday of the 19th Winter Games—the night before the Big Game—and Canadians have commandeered the student union building at the University of Utah. It's Canada night to hoo!

The timing is superb and the cheering is rapt. Laid out here to sponsor the bus for the Canadian Olympic Association, for athletes, staff, media and hangers-on. Real beer is flowing in a Moose town, and real Canadian rock is being pumped out by the Tragically Hip. Songs like *Fifty-Minute Cap and Fireworks*, which weave hockey into the cultural and emotional landscape, hit home tonight as never before.

If there's a goal that everyone remembers, it was back in '72.

We all cheered the stick and we all pulled the trigger.

If the situation in 1972, and Paul Henderson's series-winning goal against the

Irish bronze in the 1,500 m, added two golds tonight in the 500 m and in the 5,000-m relay, with teammates Jonathan Garmier, François-Louis Tremblay, Mathieu Tancogne and Eric Bédard. Garmier also took silver in the 500 m. Thus—and the upcoming gold in men's hockey—would lift Canada to 17 medals, two above its previous record of 15, to the great relief of Canadian Olympic officials. With five medals over three Games, Gagnon also surpassed legendary skater Garry Boucher as the country's most-decorated Winter Olympian.

As the Hip take to the stage they're joined by Canada's gold-medal women's hockey team, whose unfetted victory Thursday over the U.S. is viewed by many of Canada's 157 athletes as an emotional turning point of the Games. The women's team has been everywhere since then: war, hating the boys and cheerleading fellow athletes.

It seems hell of Salt Lake City is in love.

lead singer Gord Downie at the women's, score a hit reluctantly, leave the stage after sending out the band's opening song. Rhythim and, finally for this Canadian contingent, a sense of romance.

It was early days in the Games, and long-track skater Clara Hughes of Winnipeg, beloved by the Canadian rule sports-loving fraternity for her crafty-roadster, has just completed a top-10 performance in the 3,000 m. She is lavishing praise on teammate Cindy Klassen, who just beat her to win bronze and Canada's first medal of the Games. "She's the most humble athlete I've ever met and a really nice person," the sign of Klassen. "She's just a Pointe girl at heart." The description could be only applied to 25-year-old Hughes.

She's waving her hands in the talks. On her left, she's written in pen in bold capitals, "EKWA." The word was given her by a friend in La Ronge, Sask. It's Cree for "now." Her friend had advised:

THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES

After two roller-coaster weeks, Canada ended the Games with a bang

Senior team, a lot on many athletes gyrating on the dance floor, it's because they weren't born 30 years ago. They are looking to these Games, in contrast already won and to the Canada-U.S. hockey final looming tomorrow afternoon—to create a new shared memory, a new national touchstone.

And why not? After two roller-coaster weeks that saw two medal contenders fall short, Canada is ignoring to a record finish. Canada's spend slams have just delivered a four-medal day—two golds and a silver in short track, and a gaudy bronze by long-track skater Chen Hughes in the 5,000 m. Disappointments are set aside. All things are possible.

The ubiquitous figure-skating team of Jamie Sale and David Pelletier have just been won, by their fellow athletes, as the Canadian flag-bearer for Sunday's closing ceremonies. Pelletier graciously tells the crowd that the honour could have easily gone to tonight's short-track hero, Marc Gagnon, a shy veteran of three Olympics. The Chicoutimi native, who'd won an o-

MEDAL WINNERS: THE TOP 10

	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
Germany	12	10	7	35
United States	10	13	11	34
Norway	11	7	8	24
Canada	6	3	8	17
Russia	6	6	4	16
Austria	2	4	10	16
Italy	4	4	4	12
France	4	6	2	11
Switzerland	3	2	6	11
Netherlands	3	6	0	9

Source: International Olympic Committee

A cab driver hypothesizes about having a team member hang her medal around his neck. "She called me the gold-medal driver of Salt Lake City," he says, sounding like a teenager after his first date. "God, she was beautiful." Men's coach Pat Quinn wept after the women's win, and his team members drew heavily on the victory. "They've got rhythm," howls the Hip's

"Now, Clara, be in the moment," she says. "It really gave me the perspective I wanted for today and for this whole Olympic Games."

The quoniam turns to the 5,000-m race. Hughes will skate on the last Saturday of the Games. "I know for me, the longer the better," she says. "I've got 5,000-m legs right now." Hughes is among that rare class of athlete who excels in both winter and summer sports. As a distance cyclist, she won two bronze medals at the 1996 Summer Games. "Cycling," she says, "is what brought me here." As for the upcoming race, she offers only a secret smile: "I'm not telling anyone what my goals are. My coach knows, my husband and that's it. I'll let you know after."

And she does. On race day, clocking 5,000 m in 6:53.53, she glides to a bench, collapses and oaks up. If she's in the moment, that moment is pain. But it's painful to a downing triumph. She delivered on a dream she was too self-conscious to say aloud. She's on the podium—with a bronze, and an even rarer accomplishment.



Fireworks over Salt Lake, while women's hockey jerseys rock on with the Tragically Hip.

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ment. She's the first Canadian, and the fourth Olympian ever, to win medals in both Summer and Winter Olympic Games. "I can't believe this," she says, back to her usual candour now that her dream is out of the bag. "I'm so happy I actually feel like I'm going to throw up."

What worked about these Games is most everything, though it was often hard to realise from the headlines and newscasts. For those locked inside the armed camp that was Salt Lake City this February there was far too much news about fire ice like sport.

The Olympic figure-skating judging scandal ate the first week and made international stars of Salt and Pelletier. Then came a counterattack by the Russians, who claimed their athletes were victimised by illegitimate figure skating, cross-country skiing and hockey. They threatened then dropped, plans to leave early.

Then, in the Games' closing hours, there arrived, with depressing inevitability, the latest doping scandal. Three cross-country skiers, all multiple-medallists, tested positive for diuretics, a red-cell boosting agent intended to lighten endurance. Two skiers, Russian Larisa Lazutina and Spain's Johanna Mörkl, were stripped of their first gold medals, and a third, Russian Olga Danilova, was expelled from the Games. Under existing rules, none lost medals earned in races previous to the positive tests.

As a result, Canadian cross-country skier Beckie Scott — an outspoken critic of Olympic timing standards — won bronze in an electrifying photo finish in the five-kilometre sprint, behind Danilova and Lazutina, two accused cheaters. They kept the gold and silver respectively, while Scott keeps bronze and the knowledge she raced clean. "They may technically be Olympic champions," International Olympic Committee President Jacques Rogge said of the disqualified skiers. "Initially it's a very difficult issue."

And yet, these Games succeeded on many levels. Some US\$500 million bought the safest event money could buy, which is to say that about the only things that blew up were a few unattended hot lunches detonated by security staff in Park City. Financially, the Games are expected to break even, despite a staggering price tag of nearly US\$2 billion. Operationally, they were such a triumph that Salt Lake Organising Committee President Mike

Romey, a moneyball merchant banker from Boston, is now considering a political career, possibly a Republican run for governor of Massachusetts.

The closer the clean-living Mormon came to making was a run-in with a national security officer who, because of a candidate's run-up, backed up 75 buses, causing some 2,000 people to miss the start of a six event. In a scandal that could happen only in Utah, Romey angrily confronted the officer, and was accused in the local media of saying a word that rhymed with truck. Not so, said Romey, who claimed he hadn't used that word since high school. "I used the H-word," he told the Mormon-owned *Deseret News*. "It takes a lot of frustration to go on to say the H-word." Many news died as the local press thoroughly examined the issue, proving, if nothing else, that the Olympics didn't censor Utah's standards of pious and propriety.

Other words also entered the Olympic lexicon in Utah. Wordsmiths the inevitable fire-bellied those a rigid-out by security staff for causing the ever-present magnanimous to keep. People in an all-encompassing justification for the endless reversal and inconspicuous in the ceremonies of French figure skating judge Marie-Rose Le Gougne. Romey is apparently a new and very large Olympic nation, one given to showy displays of flex and the wearing of silly hats. Lower is a small medal disc of no appreciable value, but prized by Canadians who believe it better luck if secured in centre ice. Goalie is a cute sport that Canadians play, though not so successfully so they might had Wayne Gretzky shared the secret of the loonie.

In sport there is healing. It came these Games in many forms. It was through the Russians and South Koreans are not likely to agree, a far more sensitive and less self-possessed America that greeted the world here. Yes, they stormed the medal's podium, doubling Canada's fourth-place output of 17 medals and finishing on unprecedented second to Germany. But for the most part they graciously accepted the success of others. "You have shown us what the world can be," Romey said during the closing ceremonies, "and we love it."

Americans revelled in the storybook ending of Salt and Pelletier's story, their eventual winning of Olympic gold. Among their own heroes, they also sought

THE POPULATION GAMES

Score the U.S. men a lot of medals but a country with 285 million people and lots of snow should shoulder it? However, another measure of Olympic achievement, the number of people in a country per medal won (gold silver or bronze) Among 25 medal-winning nations, the U.S. doesn't even make the top 10.

	POPULATION PER MEDAL
1. Norway	176,000
2. Estonia	177,000
3. Austria	164,000
4. Switzerland	162,000
5. Finland	140,000
6. Czech	1.2 million
7. Sweden	1.6 million
8. Canada	1.8 million
9. Slovenia	1.8 million
10. Netherlands	2 million
Selected also-ems	
11. Germany	2.4 million
12. Italy	4.6 million
13. United States	8.4 million
14. Russia	9.3 million
25. China	157.7 million

Source: International Olympic Committee

CANADA: A MEDALS HISTORY

Number of medals won by Canada since the Winter Olympics began in 1924 — with 24 points. In 2002, there were 15 medals.



Source: International Olympic Committee

THE DOPING STORY

The Salt Lake City Games had the most rigorous Olympic testing program ever, starting long before the competition. These athletes got caught in 48 acts

Lance Lafferty, 35, Nevada After testing positive for testosterone, a drug that boosts production of red blood cells that carry oxygen to the muscles, she was stripped of her gold medal in the 30-km classical cross-country race and kicked out of the Games.

Also banned from the 30-km relay after yet another testing toward high levels of hemoglobin, Lafferty was allowed to keep two silver she won earlier.

John Minkley, 31, Spain He had to give up his place in the 50-km classical cross-country race and leave the Games after testing positive for testosterone. But Minkley kept gold medals he won in the 30-km freestyle and the combined pursuit.

Olga Danilova, 31, Russia She tested positive for testosterone in her final eighth in the 30-km classical cross-country race and was kicked out of the Games. Danilova kept a gold and silver won in earlier races.

Yuliya Pavlova, 23, Belarus A urine test showed that the short-track speed skater had taken the muscle-building steroid nandrolone in a food supplement provided by her team doctor and coach. That earned both officials an expulsion from the Games, but Pavlova was given a seven-month ban and allowed to stay.

Sandra Poeschl, 35, Latvia When the biathlete tested positive for testosterone after a November training run in Utah, he and Latvia Olympic officials supported. The result was a three-month retirement but still ended in time to have been eligible for the Games.

Hannes Olund, 25, Sweden The Vancouver Canadian biathletes tested positive for the steroid testosterone after one training in December. He was given a three-month ban but was not banned from playing for Team Sweden.

Antalija Danneberg-Mandl, 28, Russia The cross-country skier was banned from competition hours before the Games speeded after testing positive for erythropoietin, an endurance-boosting hormone.

Kevin Leavelle, 25, United States The luge slider was suspended for two years just days before the Games after testing positive for nandrolone. He said the substance was in a dietary supplement his coach gave him.

out those who'd overcome adversity or suffered loss. It was, in their choice of champions, they expressed a national resolve to recover, to move on and to move on after the shattering events of Sept. 11.

Thus, the gold medal bearded run of Vanessa Flören and Jil Bakkum is a lesson in loyalty. Flören stays with her partner, Bakkum, defies the odds and wins. Favored ski pilot Jean Racine dumps her former boyfriend as a brakeman, and finishes a heartbreaking fifth. Jan Štekl's gold in skeleton is a lesson in family. He racks a picture in his helmet of his late grandfather Jack Shea, a two-time gold medalist in speed skating killed recently by a drunk driver. Young Shea spends its victory, the third-generation Olympian, in his family, his father cheering him on.

Snowboarder Chris Kluge's medal is a lesson in perseverance. Two years after a liver transplant, he wins bronze in parallel giant slalom—the day after National Donor Day. The gold-medal skate of Sarah Hughes, all of 16, is a lesson in hope. Stuck in fourth, she seemingly can't vault over a formidable field to win the women's figure-skating title—except she does.

In all, not bad role models for anyone.

Near the close of every Winter Games there is an ice show of the best dancers and figure skaters. As often happens, it seemed to get lost last week in the final frantic scramble for medals, in the excitement of the hockey finals and in the high dudgeon of international affairs.

It was an exhibition. There were no judges, and it seemed a great weight was lifted from the skaters, for it had long since been decided who among them would be honored with medals. So, they had fun. They skated with grace and passion, interpreting the music rather than stuffing it with required jumps and elements. It was beautiful and playful and even a bit sexy.

It was courageous, too. Imagine what it took for American Michelle Kwan to pose on a smile, a day after perhaps the most devastating loss of her sporting life. It was gold medalist Hughes who would be the darling of this night. Kwan knew it and went out anyway. And danced well.

Canadian skaters Sha-Lynn Bourne and Victor Kraatz danced to *Marie the Kaffie*. It was a crowd-pleaser, and a bittersweet farewell in what was likely their final Olympic appearance. A full night's earlier had cost them all hope of a bronze. Tonight, when it really didn't matter, they



Flören and Bakkum holding medals

were loose and assured and fear-free, such as the cruelty of sport.

Said and I'll never skate, and the crowd went nuts. Afterwards, bouquets rained down, amid a standing ovation. It was nice, but not as nice as this: the night later that night of them skating with their co-gold medalists, the Russian pair of Elena Berezhnaya and Anton Sikharulidze—all four knelt at one point in a perfect, swooping, death spiral. Who knows, after all the intrigue, if their smiles were genuine. But for a few magic minutes, the crowd wanted to believe it was so—that despite all the noise, sport can still make us better.

The hockey game ends in it had to, in the perfect world of the Canadian imagination. It seemed a continuation of the party the night before, and the start of all the parties that would follow. They'd sing *O Canada* at the best both the previous night to cheer back the Tragically Hip for an encore. And they sang *O Canada* in the stands in the final seconds of the match, when the last two goals of the Winter Games were such a lock that high in the box, team executive director Wayne Gretzky had finally cracked a grin and pumped his fans and hugged his wife Janet.

Held delivered a win as he'd promised. His tears had overcome the doubters and the critics back home, and the crashing need of a country for a new golden moment. But it was a win when you can accomplish, the Hip sang. When you don't let the nation get in your way.

And that's the way it is in these Olympics, with so much pride on the line. You win because of your people and in spite of them, too.



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MONTREAL WAVES THE FLAG

They took to the streets with the Maple Leaf on Sunday. Is Canada saved?

BY DENOIT AUDIN in Montreal

A boisterous, happy crowd waved the Maple Leaf in the streets of downtown Montreal Sunday, and for once, it seems, the federal government did not have to pay for the show. The CBC turned out on that story early, I figure to tell you. Its coverage of History on for that afternoon included live reruns from bars in the Maritimes, Ontario, Alberta and British Columbia. But not Montreal—a telltale sign of something, I am sure.

There must be a conspiracy going on in English Canada. I mean, hey—we here in Quebec are not being "humiliated" any more. Now we are just being ignored. That's a new twist for the

worse, for sure. Where is Lucien Bouchard when we need him? Have we drifted so far away off the national radar as to be satellite-passed over, from Halifax straight to Toronto and then points west, as seen, live, on the CBC, Canadian television's heart of Canadian content? On Radio-Canada, bilingual French-speaking Quebecers learn about all sorts of things—that a worm spill could unleash an invasion of gnats happen in Saskatchewan where fields next summer, or whatever. The CBC, meanwhile, misses out on live coverage of a rare instance of spontaneous Maple Leaf flag-waving in Montreal. See what this country has come to? See what happens when Quebec stops asking unpleasant questions about threatening national unity? The CBC ignores us. That

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makes us feel like Canadians watching war speeches by George W. Bush, hoping to at least get our name mentioned.

So, they did—they did!—were the Maple Leaf in the street of downtown Montreal Sunday. And no, repeat, no, they did not wave the fleur-de-lys on the parade, in marching numbers, if only to remind Pontbriand and the rest of the world that Marie Lemieux was born in a suburb of Montreal, after all, and that Joe Sacco—blast him!—once wore the fleur-de-lys on his Quebec Nordiques jersey, before the goods who ran our formerly national sport sold the team to American developers in Colorado.

The game was hardly over when crowds of joyous and slightly inebriated young men speaking the universal language of drunk young men on a rue—in Montreal it is called French—spilled out onto the downtown streets, blocked traffic, took over a city bus, untamed on it and did other fun things like spraying the crowd with beer from the roof. One young woman flanked her breasts repeatedly, in sub-zero temperature. A man was caught by a *Journal de Montreal* photographer walking around naked, wearing the Maple Leaf as a wrap, public hair showing in public (he kept his waist button on, I must add for accuracy's sake), and TV crews recorded quips by several flag-wavers telling the world, and I quote: "Wormholes are possible!"

West enders, east enders—they all gathered downtown on Ste-Catherine, every Montrealer's street regardless of breed, deed or creed

And no fleur-de-lys, in the fleur-de-lys-waving capital of the known universe.

Back in the good bad old days of national constitutional squabbling, back when Canada cared enough about Quebec to wonder what it was that Quebec wanted—and Quebec cared enough about Canada to try and explain—Parselt Doyle, then a *Toronto Star* reporter, was dispatched from Ottawa to Quebec City every time the story heated up. He had this fine observation, which he liked to share at the end of an equally fine meal in the *Vestibule*: "For English-Canadian needs, there are only two states—Canada saved, Canada doomed." (Again, for accuracy's sake, I must point out that he used a word other than "doomed.")

So, is Canada saved? Of course. No doubt about it. And can I get you interested in a month of fire, protest, just seasonally flooded piece of real estate in southern Louisiana? They waved the Maple Leaf in Montreal, and Canada is saved, mark my words.

But what happened on Sunday is problematical for the vested interests who get the jobs of spin doctors for the bad-poll-suffering Quebec nationalist loudspeakers. The inspiration must have been strong to play the tried-and-true ethnic-national-linguistic angle for damage control *off the record here, these men have been, as anthropologists from the West Island, Inuit/Innu/Algonquin, or back from non-Indo-European Ottawa natives. Numerous boys who are warriors for me holding their liquor—welcome Canadians, if you get my drift!*

Unfortunately for them, the proof was not in the pudding. Crowds of revelers poured down St-Lazare Boulevard—in the francophone can end—as usefully as they spilled out of Bishop Street watering holes—west end—then blowing Montreal's fabled linguistic edifice to smithereens. They all gathered downtown—in Ste-Catherine Street, every Montrealer's street, notwithstanding each individual's breed, deed or

creed, and waved the flag. The Canadian flag.

The rest of Canada can, understandably, be befuddled by this unexpected display of patriotism that seems to fly in the face of most accepted ideas entertained about national politics and sentiment in Quebec.

The big misconception is that Quebecers do not like Canada. The reality is "Quebecers" is what Quebecers used to call themselves a long time ago, while Canadians elsewhere were called happy calling themselves English. Hey—we helped explore, settle and develop this country and it is ours too. There (Not to mention the fact that Quebecers accounted for four out of 10 individual medals won by Canadians and played a huge part in five of the seven team medals. Just imagine if Marc Gagnon—in his not our most-acknowledged winter Olympian—shortened his blades and learned to juggle.)

Separation was born out of frustration, not hatred. And it was a political problem, not a racial issue. It was a power struggle between two levels of government in that now-defunct era when people were convinced that governments were part of the solution... not of the problem.

I ran into a friend, a lifelong separatist, on Monday morning and asked him, half-jokingly, if he felt a little bit more Canadian after the Games. His answer was dead on: "I still pay taxes to

Ottawa, and that buys me all the bragging rights."

Canada wins, we win, Canada loses? They lose. But that is another story.

The difference between Quebec and the rest of Canada is that, here, the Maple Leaf is only one of two legitimate options, while elsewhere, it is the one and only national emblem. Here in Quebec, it is legitimate to be a separatist. In the heydays of national-separatist fervor, huge crowds waving sea of fleur-de-lys down Sherbrooke Street or the Grande Allée in Quebec City seemed to be the accepted norm. Then, the fine minds in Ottawa jumped in. Millions were spent by Sheila Copps's Council for Canadian Unity to boost the country's sagging Maple Leaf sewing industry. The federal counteroffensive proved insupportable. Just as the aging separatist had flag-waved themselves out of fashion, we became flooded in a sea of red "tags," as Premier Bernard Landry diplomatically remarked upon landing in the provincial government's driver's seat last year. Canada saved, I tell you.

The last time hockey aces across Montrealers in downtown was when the Canadiens lost the Stanley Cup almost a decade ago. Then and there it was obvious for all to see that this Montrealers—French- or English-speaking, old-stock pure laine francs, old-stock anglos, and allophones, be they from Sicily, Haiti, Bosnia or East Timor, from Montreal's can end or west end, all agreed that this was a good opportunity to get drunk, spill out on the street and have a riot.

This time, it happened earlier than usual. Normally, the downtown cops get busy around 3 a.m.—when bars are supposed to close. Sunday, it happened in the afternoon, which helps explain why the customary celebrations did not evolve into the customary riot. It was a Mountain-time riot. Hey, we are citizens of the world, too.

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'ABARBAROUS OLYMPIAD'

Russians claim a U.S. conspiracy—abetted by Canada—cut their medal count

BY MATTHEW FISHER in Moscow

When Canadians celebrated their Olympic heroes and revelled in their triumphs, most Russians were incensed and humiliated by what they saw of the Winter Games from Salt Lake City. Alexei II, patriarch of the Russian Orthodox Church, spoke furthest profanely ordered nation when he pronounced an anathema, formally disowning those in faraway Utah who compared to deny Russia in rightful Olympic honor and glory and contributed to what was regarded as a national tragedy. Russia's temporal leader, Vladimir Putin, joined the attack. Speaking to Russian parliament in the Kremlin, the president accused the International Olympic Com-

man's new president, Jacques Rogge, of being in over his head and described the Games as a "flop."

Not to be outdone, the Duma, or Russian parliament, convened an all-day emergency session at which deputies spewed anti-American invective of a kind seldom heard since Leonid Brezhnev's Golden Age of Stagnation. The weekly *Espresso* magazine ran a home-page picture of Adolf Hitler at the Berlin Olympics above a photograph of George W. Bush welcoming American athletes in Salt Lake. The caption read: "Americans Behave Like Nazis."

The Soviet Union may have gone relatively quietly into the night when the Cold War finally ended. But as the 19th Winter Games demonstrated, many Russians take sports as sport far more seriously than the

During the Soviet era, Russians had come to regard the Winter Olympics as their personal playground. Thanks to massive state support, Soviet figure skaters, speed skaters, cross-country skiers, biathletes and hockey players routinely came home laden with Olympic metal. But in Salt Lake, Russia only scored six medals and 10 other medals. That catastrophic performance dropped the Russians into fifth place in the standings, far behind the Germans and Americans. Barely third-ranked Norway and Canada finished ahead. And the way the Russians see it, they were robbed—by biased judges, referees and Olympic officials who favour North American athletes in comparison and favoured Russians in the 1980s.

To hear the Russians—and a lot of other

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Europeans—tell it, the American media found many of their accents. To them the dial was obvious. NBC handed the IOC billions of dollars in return for a bunch of new, television-friendly Olympic sports such as freestyle skiing and short track speed skating and for the kind of medals the American public wanted in figure skating. "I was just disgusted by what has happened in Salt Lake City," said Sergei Rybakov, a Moscow doctor and ardent hockey fan. "The Americans try to use their dollars to buy everything. Russia doesn't need to be part of this."

Masha Sukhova, a television producer from St. Petersburg, said Russia had been treated unfairly and many others she knew could not watch the Olympics. Col. Viktor Zhukov, who played for the Russian hockey team that lost to the U.S. at the 1980 Lake Placid Games and is now president of the Red Army Sports Club, described the Salt Lake Games as a grotesque example of American triumphalism. "For Americans, it is important to prove to themselves that they are a powerful empire and a leader in every single decade of life," Zhukov said. "Russia was equally critical. Under a headline which read the U.S. had 'corrupted a barbarous Olympics,' the still prestigious daily *Izvestiya*. 'For the Olympic Games to attract an American audience, they had to be Americanized.'"

Russians see Canadians as key players in the alleged plot to rob Russia of its medals. They first became angry when pairs skaters Elena Berezhnaya and Anton Sikharidze were forced to share their gold medals with Canadian June Stoeck and David Pelletier. The Russians claimed the unprecedented awarding of gold to the Canadians three days after they'd been judged to have finished second had nothing to do with nighting a wrong. Russia's gold medal, they said, was awarded to appease the North American public, which took to cue from the television-dominant North American media and influential figure skating officials with close ties to Canada and the U.S.

Whether fair or not, the novel way the Salt-Pelletier scandal was suddenly resolved in Canadian favor has opened a Pandora box. If the IOC and its member sports could alter one result, others could be challenged and changed, too. Russia had a litany of complaints. When freestyle skier Olga Karasheva placed fourth after finishing first through the first two rounds, Russia asked that Karasheva be given a medal. Then, officials kept cross-country

skier Larissa Larusson from competing in the women's 20-km relay, an event Russia was heavily favored to win, just minutes before the race started. The reason, a race showed she had too much hemoglobin in her blood, indicating the illegal use of a chemical to boost the red blood count so the muscles get more oxygen. Russia protested that the decision came too late for them to find an alternate and demanded the Russian team be reinstated.



Larissa Larusson and Canada's Beanie Scott, shaking hands, powdering hockey brasses.



and that the race be rerun. And when Larusson was later stripped of her gold medal after another cross-country event later this week, the 30-year classical race, the Russian Olympic Committee accused the IOC of conducting a witch hunt.

Many Russians were also immensely unhappy with the judging in ice dancing after a Russian couple, Irina Lobacheva and Ilia Averbukh, placed second. But they became unhinged when Michelle Kwan, the American favorite in women's figure skating, stumbled. Russia protested that Irina Narkidze, Kwan's long-time rival, should have moved up to first, but the judges preferred Sarah Hughes, an unheralded 16-year-old American whose jump from fourth to the gold medal astonished Hughes herself. Once again, Russia's plea fell on deaf ears. Skunkys was overheard on television sobbing "those boys, those idiots," moments after her first marks were posted.

Hockey proved just as controversial. Russian coach Valdislav Fomov said the Olympic tournament "was designed to be a U.S.-Canada feud." Fomov concurred that the Russian team was going to win the women's 20-km relay, an event Russia was heavily favored to win, just minutes before the race started. The reason, a race showed she had too much hemoglobin in her blood, indicating the illegal use of a chemical to boost the red blood count so the muscles get more oxygen. Russia protested that the decision came too late for them to find an alternate and demanded the Russian team be reinstated.

Like his friend Fomov, the president of Russia's Olympic team had been a victim of official officiating by referees who normally work in the NHL. They were particularly angry with Canadian Bill McCross, who refereed the semifinal game in which Russia lost to the U.S. "I was quite shocked that the Olympic committee signed a contract with the NHL so that almost all games would have NHL referees," Fomov said. "They say that this is because most players in the Olympics play in the NHL. The logic of this is completely unacceptable to me."

For all that headfist fury at their importance and off the playing field, Russians were not entirely blind to their country's shortcomings in Salt Lake. Although the Russian team had threatened to boycott the closing ceremony, an *Izvestiya* sports commentator said that, instead, "maybe it was true to best Russian sports businessmen with his pocket. They were useless." Sport Figures, a daily which may produce the best hockey coverage of any newspaper in the world, was equally hard on many members of the Russian hockey team. Alexei Yashin, infamous for refusing to honor his contract with the Chicago Blackhawks two years ago, was described as "a great disappointment," while Pavel Bure, arguably the most popular Russian hockey player at home and in North America, was "a total and unquestionable failure."

Salt, Sport Figures was shocked by what took place in Salt Lake. In a two-page commentary on Feb. 26, it said, "Sport is business. Medals are money. Corruption is everywhere. America is the alien. They were the reason of the Olympic Games in Salt Lake. Soviet production is finally coming back. Sooner or later, commercialization will kill sport."

Seeing the dice national news, Yeltsin, Russia's top-ranked evening newspaper, devoted the first 29 minutes of its 35-minute newscast on Feb. 22 to allegations that Russia had been cheated out of medals in five sports. The newscast began with a videotape of an American slalom official taking the Olympic oath in which he promised to treat all athletes fairly. The program ended with a report that scenery had been rigged at the U.S. embassy in Moscow after protesters had appeared harassing demonstrators. "Nothing goes back our medals," But all Russian protests in Salt Lake City were rejected. The Olympics were another Cold War that the Russians were not going to win.



EYE-OPENING EXPERIENCE

The COA's new boss gets some lessons in Utah

After 34 years as the broadcast business, Jim Thompson was ready to hang on up. He'd spent 20 years with CBC Sports before moving to the newly launched TSN, Canada's first 24-hour sports channel, in 1985. He was president of TSN and in parent company, NBCUniversal Communications, when he stepped down in 2000, ready for a life of leisure and family time. But his retirement was brief, he tells *Rosabeth-Rosemary Michael*. Sooner Thompson, now 59, has opened a four-year contract, effective March 1, as CEO of the Canadian Olympic Association, filling a post left vacant with the death a year ago of Carol Anne Lockhart. While you get off-duty on duty, Thompson was in Salt Lake City during the Winter Games.

Michael: Why did you take the job after retiring?

Thompson: I didn't want to work. But last October, I was invited to the Coaching Association of Canada's annual dinner. I walked into the room and for the next three hours I was turned on, talking with friends and back in my element. If I missed anything, it was the sports world and sports people.

Michael: And now, after Canada's experience in Salt Lake City, any second thoughts?

Thompson: My enthusiasm for the job is now probably once as big. I was already

born to do it. Now, I'm determined and wild about it.

Michael: What was so special about the Games?

Thompson: I was there for seven days. It was an extraordinarily well-organized and Games. Really a great location, lots of space, it wasn't crowded. Volunteers were terrific—just so friendly and so kind and so happy to be doing it. I went there to get my eyes opened to what the COA does and it. I learned an awful lot in a very short time. It didn't look like it had just been put up in a moment to excess. I was very impressed.

Michael: It has to be a thrill for people—volunteer or not—to be a part of that.

Thompson: I think it is and when you see the volunteers who have taken two weeks off work just to help our answering phones, you realize that it's really special. We talk about the value of it as a brand.

The value is in a huge, but the return for people is enormous. The Olympics are special, they really are. Nothing compares to them.

Michael: What Canadian moment did you enjoy what did you find surprising?

Thompson: There were a lot of very good things. The short-track speed skater—Mark Gagnon—I mean, this guy is incredible, and you're not aware of it because it isn't a high-profile sport. The

Canadians are very, very sound and he has now won five medals. And Camero Le May Doan—she's an incredible person, a very accomplished athlete and just charming to everyone.

Michael: The Olympics aren't without controversy.

Thompson: Yeah, there were problems. The Jamie Salt-Donald Pelletier thing was solved by the time I got there. But it had taken a lot of energy by the COA and Skate Canada. They did a good job of being aware of the politics. You couldn't just go in like a bull in a china shop and demand everything. You have to have a little bit of decorum and follow a few prescribed paths so that your efforts aren't counter-productive. Some press wrote that it took a long time. My god, in the world of international sport, this was done at the speed of lightning.

Michael: Did it clean up the reputation of a sport that's been blighted by earlier problems?

Thompson: No, I don't think it cleaned up anything. I think it resolved one isolated situation. It was a negotiated compromise that didn't hurt anyone. The Russian couple wasn't dropped at the medal.

Michael: A couple of other Russians—Larissa Lazutina and Olga Danilova—were forced to be drug tests.

Thompson: I think drugs are very... it's a very difficult topic to deal with. They're drugs, you can't deny, when they're dirty, how dirty are they? I think every time there is a suspension or a failed test, you really open yourself up to questions on how it was handled.

Michael: How did the NHL players bleed in at the athletes' village?

Thompson: Fine, absolutely fine. You walk up to the building and there's this huge room with a sign with one of the Olympic rings sitting on a bench outside. It's [needs hockey coach] Pat Quinn just sitting there, enjoying the sun, watching people and having a good time.

Michael: Did you watch the hockey?

Thompson: Yeah, I was more pleased with the women winning. They were 0-8 against the Americans in pre-Olympic competition, they were up against an overwhelming favorite, they were right in the lead's den. They played a hell of a game. It was probably the most amazing win. I see the pros play hockey every day. What was interesting is that the men's game between the U.S. and Canada was by far the best of the tournament because



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OLYMPICS

they expected each other and played a far better brand of hockey—it was clean and tough.

Mackenzie: But you did more than watch even down there, didn't you?

Thompson: Well, politics was all around. I've been around it long enough so that I understood it and realize most of the work that's done there is done in the lobby and the restaurant and the bar of the rink hotel where you meet people and you network. I spent many hours discussing Whistler with local people and with sports leaders from throughout the world. And that's going to be a penny of mine to add as much as I can to that bid to ensure that Canada wins it in 2010.

Mackenzie: How important is the Whistler bid to athlete development and Canadian sporting community?

Thompson: It's huge, huge. You can't discuss the value of a Games in your country without exposing the financial costs and value of it. If expenditures can be kept to reasonable levels, the momentum that will come back to the Canadian sports establishment will fund sports for years. What does it mean for Whistler if they can say, "Come and ski the slope that the snow still was on?" What does it mean to have new facilities built in the area—a isolated rural, a new cross-country location? Canmore was built for Calgary and it is used and used and used. The Games in your own backyard create enormous awareness. You couldn't spell "Becca Scott" two weeks ago, but now she's a household name. How many people are sitting there now at a provincial level and saying, "We have Whistler in 2010—I have eight years to get to the podium?"

Mackenzie: Despite the fact the COA is a private company, at last a big consultancy TSN was not that star of company. You called the shot. Are you going to have that same freedom with the COA?

Thompson: I don't know. I suspect I won't. I suspect I won't need it. Is there communication? I suspect I hope there's better communication. Is there management? I hope there isn't, because then frankly they've wasted a lot of resources hiring me if the board members want to manage this. Is this a bureaucracy? It's interesting, because when you really analyze what the COA is, it's difficult to describe. The COA is literally made up of all the sports organizations around the country

And can it work? It can work, but it can work a lot better if the business of sport in Canada goes on a firmer track.

Mackenzie: In the first week of the Games there was a fire and city almost Canada's lack of overall production. Now we can say it was the best ever. Is the media count a fair measurement of success?

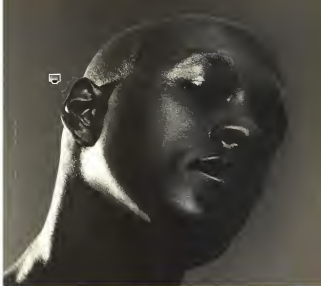
Thompson: Short answer, yes. Longer answer is, let's dwell on our successes, not on our failures. Expanded answer is, some of those third-place bronze medals were every bit as important as gold medals and some of those fourths and sixth were, too, because they went to athletes who reached a higher level of performance than they'd ever achieved before. The fact we finished with 17 medals is humorous. Sure, there were disappointments, but let me answer that abstractly: Jeremy Wadsworth is the finest long-track sprinter in the world. He has the world record. And Jeremy, on his fourth stride, tripped. Does that mean that the Canadian effort was a) poorly prepared, b) they didn't perform, c) the system was in dire straits, or, d) we need a public inquiry into this and let every headline at TV or radio commentary say, "Sport in Canada is at an all-time low?" The guy tripped.

Mackenzie: So while there are the ones who do better come through, are there other unexpected ones who do?

Thompson: Yeah, but I don't think the ones who didn't come through should indicate the COA didn't do its job. The COA did a heck of a job. They got people there, which is their job. They were looked after, cared to and they had great resources like a full medical team. I think sometimes we have to sit back—see some criticism ourselves a little too frequently I was in Sydney and saw the Aussies celebrate and it was a party.

Mackenzie: When can we look forward to?

Thompson: I don't know where the next 10 gold medals will come from four years out. The programs that are producing the gold medals now will continue to produce the medallions. And if they don't, it doesn't mean they're failing. It means it's taking longer, they haven't found the person or haven't developed the talent. I was very impressed with speed skating, but when you look at speed skating, they had a lot of shortfalls, too. Failures? No. Shortfalls? Sure.



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Over to You **DAVID M. SHRIBMAN**

Yup, it's your game

Vtro Beach. It's a no hubbub of hockey. The biggest attraction is a sprawling complex of orange groves and green fields known as Dodgertown, where the other afternoon a few of the boys of summer were trying to rid themselves of the kinks of winter. Over at the same center is a show of Japanese art was pulling in teens and school groups. But at lunchtime on Monday, the big subject is a sunny retirement town where the air conditioning is always turned up vs. . . . hockey.

There was Gertrude Leonard, a Chicago widow who found herself watching the kids from Canada defeat the U.S. in the Olympic final. "We know a lot of Canadians down here," she said over her chicken-salad sandwich. "Better Canada than Russia." There was Harold Parsons, who wrote a book about winter sports more than 60 years ago. "This was a very fair contest, well-played with a victory well-earned," he said. And there was Harry VanWormer, a retired manufacturing executive from Detroit. "I'm sure of glad the United States didn't dominate the whole thing," he said. "I've lived on the Canadian border and I think it's nice, nice, nice people should win this."

So there it is. Our neighbors beat us in a game we borrowed from them and the reaction is not anger, not resentment, not even chagrin. "We lost to an enemy, not people. Sounds a lot like the communists in tunnels around courthouses when, over a cold one, the losing defense lawyer admits to the victorious prosecutor, justice was done."

Sure, well like to have won the men's gold. The women, too. But that's sports. This is a different age. We have a suit spec for justice these days. There isn't enough of it to go around. And on Sunday justice was done. Let us to Jimmy Rebeck, the forward on the American team: "We would have loved to win, but if we couldn't, there's nobody better to do it. We were playing hockey's creators."

Hockey's creators, yes. We like the game down here and, particularly in Massachusetts and Minnesota, we've cultivated our own crop of naive practitioners of an indigenous we have come to worship in winter. One year I went to the high school hockey tournament in St. Paul, Minn., and watched 6,000 people get together one morning to watch two minutes and 21 seconds of brainbaking play to resolve a five-night tie. I felt as if I were in August in the Masons.

But in our hearts we know that, despite the tales of how American farm kids used to play the game in our north coun-

try—Canada's first patch—with cars of snail wrapped with black electric tape, with heating tent heaters and with newspapers stuffed into their creases for pads, this is your game and yours in nature. I know it 40 years ago when, in a tiny town on the New England coast, we used to walk across the marsh roads and knock a puck around the ice a few feet from the coasting Atlantic. The names of the braves we met were, to a man, Canadian. In those days, whenever my grandfather came from Montreal we went to the staid old Benson Garden to watch the pros. I vividly noticed that every game we saw—every single one of them—was against the Canadians. For years I believed that Bernard Morin played anyone else. And in this day I believe that Bernard Morin played his trips to see his grandchildren around the Canadian road schedule.

So there was justice and, we can see even from here, a special sweetness. It was the first time in a half-century (We had to look this up—not many Edmonton Montclair experts around these precincts—that it was the first time we saw the right face smilingly and with authority across the country.) And though it was the first time an American Olympic team lost an American ice hockey game in 1932, there was a feeling of consolation, too. Thanks to its loose-planning makers, that wasn't American ice. It was Canadian ice. And it was a Canadian ice.

And it was a Canadian ice, even here in the United States. Monday morning, the veteran CBC newsmen in Washington spent Monday's morning congratulatory phone calls from American friends who were overcome with a unusual emotion: *It's great to call a Canadian*. Terry Cook, director of public affairs in the Canadian embassy in Washington, got a call from an American in Salt Lake City who said he didn't know anyone else to congratulate so he called the embassy.

So now the names Jimmy Rebeck and Joe Sides go into the record books and into the folklore and into the memory of everyone who loves the winter game. And it doesn't hurt one bit that Igla was born on Canada Day. Sunday, Feb. 26, 2002 was Canada Day, even here. Indeed, in an area where the number 9/11 have become a grim threshold all their own, it is good to welcome another set of numbers for the ages: 5-2. Shoot those numbers from the bonnet of Canada's, the United States 2. You were justice was done. Hockey for you—and hockey for hockey.

David M. Shribman, who wrote U.S. college hockey books and college basketball, is a Washington business chief of the Boston Globe.

OLYMPICS



The Rocket's team has known better days

LET'S HELP PRO HOCKEY

A former diplomat makes the case for subsidies

BY GORDON GIFFIN



The entire time I was the United States ambassador to Canada, I was asked to talk about trade issues. American foreign policy, military co-operation and the like. Meanwhile, the real reason I took the job was that I wanted to talk about . . . hockey. . . and go to hockey games. . . and read about hockey every day in the newspaper. I love the sport. As an American, I remain perplexed as to why someone who spent their formative years at the Forum watching players known as all simply as "The Rocket," "Boom Boom" and "Zee Grr RRR"—as I did—failed to buy the Canadiens.

Living in Ottawa a few years ago, as a newly minted Senators fan, I watched the debate about whether the federal and provincial governments should act to support the viability of Canadian-based

national hockey—recognizing that I do so at my own peril. I've been making plans to travel in the wake of the Olympics, from my hometown in Atlanta to my one-time home of Montreal, so watch in *Canada* play the Atlanta Thrashers. I'm struck by two confounding realities. First, Atlanta, Ga., has an NHL team. Second, one of the most storied franchises in sports (I hate it, but I acknowledge) the Yankees may be the first), *Les Habitués*, are owned by an American. I remain perplexed as to why someone who spent their formative years at the Forum watching players known as all simply as "The Rocket," "Boom Boom" and "Zee Grr RRR"—as I did—failed to buy the Canadiens.

Living in Ottawa a few years ago, as a newly minted Senators fan, I watched the debate about whether the federal and provincial governments should act to support the viability of Canadian-based

NHL teams. The fact is that once you start a team might move south. No one considered that Molson might sell the Canadiens to someone from down south. The "No" side of the support argument had two primary components. First, when in doubt, blame it on the Americans. That argument holds that U.S. cities provide professional sports teams enormous public subsidies free available in Canada, and that's not fair. Second, public dollars shouldn't be used in Canada to facilitate profits for rich owners and inflated salaries for already overpaid players. That said, it's interesting to note that while the Canadian Olympic medalists were popularly hailed as national heroes, NHL players, who didn't seem to derive from the satisfaction the Canadians probably derived from the magnificent gold medal win.

Many American commentators have concluded that it is in the interests of their residents to have professional sports in their midst. While there are significant economic benefits to the local from tax revenues, hotels, restaurants, clubs, collateral businesses and the like, the case isn't merely based on dollars and cents. For example, the 1996 Olympics wouldn't have come to Atlanta without the presence of sports facilities built for pro baseball, football and hockey. Today, we have experienced significant international business development resulting from that international association. Sports facilities attract urban areas with a variety of social benefits. And the psyche of a community is affected in inestimable ways when a home team is showing. When the Braves beat the Yankees, you can't find a more proud, confident community than Atlanta. Similarly, it's difficult to calculate the intangible value to the Ottawa area when the Senators are moving and beating the Leafs. It's hard to imagine anyone who has read or seen Rich Carman's *The Hockey Sweater* not appreciating the intangible value of pro hockey in Canada to each successive generation of young Canadians.

Many thoughtful people south of the border are convinced that the presence of a professional sports franchise in our communities is an asset they're therefore willing to accept a capital cost to the community to acquire and maintain it. The suggestion that such initiatives put an unreasonable strain on local public resources is a red herring. It is possible to foster the presence of a sports franchise without significantly burdening taxpayers. In Atlanta, it's true that the new baseball and basketball arenas

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Dr. Kerry MacQuarrie of the University of New Brunswick is also looking for ways to maintain and improve groundwater quality. Even small amounts of unwanted substances — gasoline, solvents, pesticides — can significantly pollute our water. MacQuarrie, who is coordinator of UNB's Groundwater Studies Group, and his graduate students are developing and applying numerical models to understand how these contaminants travel and behave. Scientists and engineers use this information to help ensure the security of a crucial source of drinking water.

Of the 10,000 university scientists and engineers whose research is funded by NSERC (the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council), here are just a few of the many others who are getting their feet wet on research related to water quality.

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financed by the issuance of city bonds, but the income generated by the facility—not its revenues—was used to retire the debt. Atlanta's sole contribution to the building is the city's credit worthiness, with a resultant lower interest rate on the debt. When Canadians conduct this analysis, they tend to overlook the public asset assessment and focus only on the public support question.

Then there's the argument that governments shouldn't be in the business of subsidizing wealthy owners and overpaid players. Certainly, that's not the goal in itself. But remember that Canadian taxpayers provide support to rich owners of other businesses and rich employees in other endeavors, through subsidies and low-interest loans. They do so because of policy decisions that such programs serve the public interest, which is exactly the point I'm making about pro hockey franchises.

People who oppose similar policies relating to NHL teams ignore these facts—even though some of them almost certainly work for companies that receive the same kind of support they criticize. Why have Canadians decided that different standards should apply to enterprises just because they happen to be in the hockey business?

The American people and their elected representatives assign substantial value to a professional sports franchise as a public asset. Sure, I know this conclusion is based partly on emotion, rather than economics, and may be unique to our culture. Remember, we're a country that finds 100,000 people at a single college football game in the fall. We don't find a remarkable or objectionable that a public policy, which achieves a public goal, happens to also pay dividends to athletes. The response to Canada's gold-medal hockey win over the U.S. shows that Canadians aren't easily immune to sentiment, and neither am I. My real goal in reviewing this debate was my wish to ensure that when my Atlanta Thrashers play my once-beloved Habs in the future, the fine of those two love continues to reside in Montreal.

Gordon Goffin served as U.S. ambassador to Canada from August, 1997, to April, 2001. He is now an international trade lawyer in Atlanta and Washington.

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'Strive to do your best'

Canada's Paralympians are ready to take on the world in Salt Lake City

BY SUSAN MCCLELLAND

In 1987, Todd Nicholson's life was turned upside down. As he was driving home from his high-school prom just outside Ottawa, the teenager's car skidded out of control, hit a tree and rolled over—and Nicholson was paralyzed from the waist down. "My biggest fear was losing my independence," recalls the now 33-year-old, whose injuries included a crushed spine. "I didn't want to become somebody who moped around and didn't do anything." Nicholson came up with a motto, "Keep going and don't stop," and decided to ride his recovery with gusto. The athletic young man, who grew up playing soccer, hockey and baseball, threw himself into sports, including wheelchair tennis and basketball, scuba diving and weightlifting.

But all these became secondary passions in 1991 when Nicholson discovered sledge hockey. The game follows the same rules as able-bodied hockey, except that players sit in sleds with skate blades under the seat and maneuver, shoot and pass using their sticks. Nicholson's meteoric rise in the sport is legendary. In 1994, he was elected captain of the Canadian Paralympic team that brought home the bronze medal from Lillehammer. Four years later, Nicholson and company claimed silver in Nagano. And this year, entering the Salt Lake City Paralympics that run from March 7 to 16, captain Nicholson and his crew are the reigning world champions. The secret to the team's success? "I tell people, always strive to do your best and never give up on your dreams," says Nicholson, a humble, resourceful staffing assistant for Canada Customs. "If someone like me can achieve their goals by hard work and determination, then anyone can."

Which, it appears, that the entire 2002 Paralympic team lives by. This year, about 600 athletes from 36 countries will vie for the 307 medals up for grabs in Utah. And according to chief de mission Henry Wohler, Canada, which is sending 27 ath-



Never give up, Nicholson says

letes and two guides to the Games, could win as many as 20 medals—five more than in Nagano. The team is one of the strongest Canada has ever sent to a winter Paralympics. It's composed of athletes who have overcome huge personal obstacles to penetrate the Paralympic slogan, "Mind, Body, Spirit." These are tremendously dedicated people who, in the competition arena, have risen to the challenge, says Wohler. "The Paralympic team is flying."

Siding particularly high is rookie Paralympian Lauren Woolstencroft. The 20-year-old alpine skier is ranked second overall in the world. She won three gold medals at the last world championships held in 2000 and that, combined with a string of first-place finishes last season, has made Woolstencroft the heavy favorite in the downhill and super-G races. "Although I don't like to say I am going to win an event," says the Calgary

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native, "I know I have a realistic chance of doing well in Salt Lake City."

Woolamcraft, who was born without legs below the knees and with her left arm ending at the elbow, took up skiing when she was four years old. While she excelled in the sport, she initially had aspirations of becoming a competitive basketball player. She spent seven years as a show jumper, but by the time she was 14, she'd grown tired of competing. Skiing, which had been a hobby, became her sport of choice.

Within two years, she was asked to join Alberta's disabled ski team and, in 1999, she began tackling the international circuit. Like Nicholson, Woolamcraft—who is in her third year of electrical engineering at the University of Victoria—is driven to succeed. "I always have a goal," she says. "I love preparing for a big race. I love working toward something."

Artistic like Woolamcraft have helped make the Paralympics the second largest sporting event in the world. Their origins,

however, are far less grand. In 1948, British neurosurgeon Sir Ludwig Guttmann, recognizing that sport can be an important tool in integrating a disabled person into society, organized a wheelchair competition on the front lawn of the hospital where he worked. The event received worldwide media attention and athletes from other countries asked to take part. The Games were held every four years to coincide with the Olympics and new sports were added. By 1960, the Paralympics had become so popular that they were staged in the same venues as the Olympics.

The first winter Paralympics took place in 1976 in Örnsköldsvik, Sweden. Considerably smaller than the summer Games, which boast more than 18 sports, the Salt Lake City Paralympics will feature only four: men's sledge hockey, alpine skiing, cross-country skiing and boccia. While sledge hockey is only open to athletes with lower body disabilities, the sliding events are divided into classes so that athletes with similar disabilities compete against each other. Brian McKeeve of Cassiope, Alta., for instance, could win gold in the visually impaired class in cross-country skiing. The 22-year-old, who originally competed as an able-bodied athlete, fell from the scene in 2001 by claiming top-position finishes in several World Cup events. McKeeve suffers from Stargardt's Disease, a genetic disorder also known as juvenile macular degeneration, which causes his eyesight to worsen progressively. To help him navigate the course, he uses a guide, his brother Robin, who was one of Canada's top able-bodied cross-country skiers.

Sharon Marie Whyte of Hinton, Alta., is another medal favourite in Nordic skiing. Over the past two years, the 34-year-old has nabbed a number of first- and second-place honours in international competitions. Whyte, who lost most of the use of her legs following a spinal cord injury in 1991, also competed as an able-bodied athlete before her accident.

Another star of the Canadian team is alpine skier sensation Chris Williamson of Toronto. Visually impaired since birth, the 29-year-old is the 2000 and 2001 World Cup overall champion. He, too, competed as an able-bodied athlete, reaching the national level as a speed skater. While a teenager, Williamson skated for Manitoba, where his father, a 1968 speed-sliding Olympian, trained

members of the Canadian team. Growing up, Williamson says he never thought of himself as disabled. "It never stopped me from achieving anything I wanted," he says. "I go into every race thinking I am going to win. I'll be happy with whatever the result is in the end, but my goal is gold."

These athletes would also love to hang a gold medal around his neck. But just being at the Paralympics is a dream come true for the 48-year-old sledge hockey player. "I grew up loving hockey and watching all the Quebec players," says the native of Langford, Que. When he was five, polio caused the muscles in one of his legs to atrophy. The illness also severely restricted movement in both limbs. At 15, the eager youngster tried hockey on a pair of double-bladed skates that his uncle designed for him. But Pichette's legs just weren't strong enough to support him.

Over the years, his disability worsened until, in 1988, he was confined to a wheelchair. He had to quit his job as a welder and his wife Jocelyne had to support him and their two teenage sons. Pichette admits it was the lowest point in his life. Sledge hockey, however, which he discovered during his rehabilitation, proved to be the lifesaver. "All my life I dreamed of one day getting up on skis and being a goaltender," says Pichette, who now works at Canadian Tire. "All of a sudden I was making something of myself in the sport." Like Nicholson, Pichette succeeded rapidly. He represented Canada in the last two Paralympics. He also won the best goaltender award in Nagano and again at the 2000 world championship in Salt Lake City.

Today, Pichette's eldest son, Carl, assists him with his training. And New Jersey Devils goaltender Martin Brodeur—whom he came to know through a family connection—substitutes part of Pichette's practice and warming circles. Sully for the Canadian team, though, the veteran plans to retire at the end of the Games. His play coach future Paralympian and his three grandchildren. "It's time for me to go back," Pichette concludes. "But not before I try to get the best-goaltender award one more time and the Paralympic gold medal."

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Who're you rooting for?

Every once in awhile, amidst the befuddling fog of daily existence, life often up an odd bit of clarity. While not making revolutions here, nothing landed down on tables or booted out in the butt of Charlton Heston. Just those small moments of plain-spoken truth like the one that hit me last week during, of all things, a women's hockey game. The truth was this: *I've become Canadian.*

Not that I didn't essentially know this. More than 16 years here have produced a deepening affection, a hardening allegiance that doesn't exclude my U.S. roots but somehow complements them—a peaceful coexistence, I like to think. But hey, sweet sentiments aside, the sub just got here a sports and, just as they're so crying in baseball at Tera Hanks' fanatical blarney, there's no wailing in sports. In sports you choose, with us or against us. And so, presented with two Canada-U.S. Olympic hockey finals, winners and losers, I folded the inevitable question, asked graciously or as a gentle barb or both. So, *where you rooting for?*

For Canada, against all comers, there was never any doubt about that. It was the position that surprised me, in that, *my dear mistress* during the women's game. The American ad was during her leisurely marathon, crying *Canada after Canada* to the pretty boy. Was *my mistress* to *Guantanamo*—right in a row it was, giving the U.S. side repeated power plays to try to even the score. And I sat there, staring at the TV. I don't recall exactly what I said and there were, thankfully, no witnesses. But the gist of it was that they were trying to cheat us, and in the track suits after the game, I could only shake my head in wonder.

So there it is: *not only Canadian but a Canadian hockey fan*—really weird, to be sure, but with a few Canada to try anyway. *Who ever said hockey fans were quiet?*

Here's one thing, in the men's tournament, where the hockey was *intimidating* for its speed and brutalizing skill, did anyone truly miss the game? When Belarus was getting out its wondrous space of the Sweden, who wished they were physically paralleling them as well. In the old North American final, check full of players raised in the old tough-guy tradition, did anyone witnessing the talent of a *Sidney* or *Alvin* girls secretly long for the fierce sideways of a *Doris* or a *Bradley*? Even Don Cherry, amid his usual rant about Russian "equipment," didn't seem to miss his beloved chuggery. And while we're at it, with hockey just more entertaining on this spacious

international ice, where states actually have more to share?

Another thing: it has already become the trait of legend that, from the moment the puck was dropped in the men's gold-medal game, the arena of Canada were in disbelief in Utah. It's a lovely legend but not, in my experience, a particularly true one. It so happened that my son had a hockey game that very afternoon, starting less than an hour before the Olympic final. I'll tell his coach, surely we're not going to... *hockey in the making...* their very own '72—but no, it couldn't be cancelled. We'll just let the clock run and get the kids off the ice as time. And so it went, with my son, normally dawdling once *skating* out of the locker room half-changed, then follo with *moment* running, ready to race through the *eggy arena*. Except the arena wasn't *eggy*—they were jam-packed with cars, pulling in and out of a strip of furniture across, leaving us to catch the first period on radio. If "All of Canada" was cheering, as the *Pharos* *Minnear* put it, many must have been doing it in electronics departments, before banks of TVs.

Which raises a final question: what if Canada had lost? Would life have simply gone on as it has in the States, with a flick of the remote and a generated thing Christmas Agiles was in closing ceremonies? "Our country desperately needed to win this tournament," Wayne Gretzky said afterwards, the colour returning to his face for seemingly the first time in weeks. OK, we know all about the half-century drought in hockey gold here, but *apropos?* Is that a *goal* thing, that the country's all-image rides to eternally on a rubber puck? In the obligatory way of the day, it's tempting to speculate what effect Sept. 11 had, whether in all the teeth-grinding over Ottawa's policies and forces signing so closely with Washington's, Canadians have found an alternative antidote in hockey's uncertainty. It's tempting, too, obviously, kind of silly I mean, did Canadians really need Osama bin Laden to remind them they're *crack* about this game?

But what the heck! Canada rules and it's pretty darn satisfying, even if the Americans took some of the fun out of it by being so bloody graceful. Of course, they did win twice as many medals as Canadians. Not that I'm celebrating. Heston

Bob Levine is an Executive Editor at Madelon's



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